

NCA

VOC FOR PGM/FN  
BACKGROUNDER NO. 5-5912  
JOHN ALBERT

JUNE 14, 1978

## EAST GERMANY'S ROLE IN AFRICA

ANNCR:

RECENT STATEMENTS ABOUT THE PARTICIPATION OF EAST GERMAN INSTRUCTORS IN THE TRAINING OF THE KATANGANESSE IN ANGOLA WHO INVADED ZAIRE'S SHABA PROVINCE HAVE ONCE AGAIN DRAWN ATTENTION TO THE ROLE OF EAST GERMANY IN AFRICA. VOA NEWS ANALYST JOHN ALBERT HAS THIS BACKGROUND REPORT:

VOICE:

DESPITE RECENT OFFICIAL DENIALS, EAST GERMAN OFFICIALS ON A NUMBER OF EARLIER OCCASIONS, HAVE OPENLY ACKNOWLEDGED G-D-R ACTIVITIES IN TRAINING AND EQUIPPING VARIOUS AFRICAN GOVERNMENT FORCES AS WELL AS GUERRILLA MOVEMENTS. LAST YEAR PRESIDENT MOBUTU OF ZAIRE ACCUSED EAST GERMANY OF INVOLVEMENT IN THE 1977 KATANGAN ATTACK ON SHABA PROVINCE. AND THIS YEAR, THE LONDON "OBSERVER" SUGGESTED EAST GERMAN INVOLVEMENT IN THE MOST RECENT KATANGAN INVASION. SEVERAL DAYS EARLIER, ON ANOTHER FRONT, ETHIOPIAN CHIEF OF STATE MENGISTU HAILE MARIAM SAID ON THE OPENING OF ADDIS ABABA'S OFFENSIVE AGAINST GUERRILLAS IN ERITREA THAT EAST GERMANY COULD BE COUNTED AMONG HIS GOVERNMENT'S FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS.

TWO EAST GERMAN FUNCTIONAIRES HAVE BEEN PARTICULARLY ACTIVE IN AFRICA. POLITBORO MEMBER WERNER LAMBERZ, WHO BEFORE HE WAS KILLED IN AN ACCIDENT IN LIBYA, WAS SPECIAL AMBASSADOR FOR AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST. LAMBERZ DURING FREQUENT TRIPS TO AFRICA, REPORTEDLY ASSURED GUERRILLA LEADERS IN ANGOLA, MOZAMBIQUE, ZIMBABWE AND ELSEWHERE THAT THEY COULD COUNT ON MILITARY HELP FROM EAST GERMANY.

IN THE MILITARY FIELD, ACCORDING TO DETAILED REPORTS FROM WEST GERMANY AND BRITISH SOURCES, THE WARSAW PACT HAS ENTRUSTED EAST GERMANY, ALONG WITH CUBA, TO ACT AS MIDDLEMAN AS FAR AS MILITARY TRAINING AND EQUIPMENT IS CONCERNED. EAST GERMANY DEFENSE MINISTER GENERAL HEINZ HOFFMANN IS REGULARLY SENT TO AFRICA ON INFORMATION AND INSPECTION TRIPS. HE WAS IN ANGOLA ABOUT THE TIME OF THE INSURGENT RAID INTO SHABA PROVINCE. AT OFFICIAL CEREMONIES, THE ANGOLAN AUTHORITIES THANKED EAST GERMANY FOR ITS MILITARY AID DURING THE CIVIL WAR.

WHILE PRECISE DATA ARE LACKING AND SOME PRESS REPORTS MAY BE EXAGGERATED, THE SWISS "ZUERCHER ZEITUNG" AND SEVERAL WEST GERMAN PAPERS SEE NO REASON TO DOUBT REPORTS THAT FOR ALMOST TEN YEARS EAST GERMANY HAS SUPPLIED ARMS FOR THE PLO IN THE NEAR EAST, THE FRELIMO IN MOZAMBIQUE, THE MPLA IN ANGOLA AS WELL AS THE KATANGANESE THERE. ARMS WERE ALSO SENT TO THE SWAPO IN NAMIBIA AND THE POLISARIO IN THE WEST SAHARA.

A REPORT IN THE LONDON "SUNDAY TELEGRAPH" SAYS THAT, IN SOUTH YEMEN, ABOUT 2,000 EAST GERMAN ADVISORS HELPED TO REORGANIZE THAT COUNTRY'S LOCAL POLICE. "AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL" HAD MADE THE SAME CLAIM, ADDING THAT EAST GERMANS ALSO AIDED IN THE SETTING UP OF DETENTION CENTERS. IN SOUTH YEMEN. THE POLITICAL SCIENCE INSTITUTE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF COLOGNE ESTIMATES THAT EAST GERMAN EXPORTS OF ARMS AND MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO AFRICA IN RECENT YEARS HAS TOTALLED ABOUT ONE HUNDRED MILLION DOLLARS ANNUALLY. NON-MILITARY AID IS SAID TO AVERAGE ABOUT ONE HUNDRED FIFTY MILLION DOLLARS A YEAR. THESE ARE CONSIDERABLE SUMS CONSIDERING EAST GERMANY'S FOREIGN EXCHANGE PROBLEMS. AND THEY TESTIFY TO THE IMPORTANCE WHICH EAST GERMANY ATTACHES TO ITS PRESENCE IN AFRICA.

JS/RCS